THE LAY-MAN'S MAGAZINE.

"THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND—AND THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF."

Number 39] *MARTINSBURGH, AUGUST* 8, 1816. [*Volume* 1.

JOURNAL

Of the proceedings of a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia,

(Continued)

Mr. Benjamin Watkins Leigh, from the Committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts, presented a Report, which was read, as follows:

The Committee, to whom the accounts of the Treasurer were referred, have, according to order, performed that duty, and come to the following Report.

Your committee have examined the accounts of the Treasurer; and found that the same are fair and correct; the debts being all supported by proper vouchers; and the balance in his hands at the meeting of this present Convention was sixty dollars and fifty-three cents, as appears by the following state of the said accounts:

Cash received by William Munford, Treasurer of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia, since his appointment to that office.

Contributions from the Parishes in May, 1815; viz.

From Henrico Parish, by Doctor John Adams		$15 00
— St. Mark's — Culpepper, by Mr. Robt. Slaughter,		15 00
— St. Paul's Church, Alexandria, by Mr. Charles Page,		15 00
From Norborne Parish, Berkeley, by Mr. Wm. Pendleton,		15 00
— Shelburn ——, Loudoun, by the Reverend John Dunn,		15 00
— St. Stephen's Church, Culpepper, by Mr. Samuel Slaughter,		15 00
— St. George's Parish, Fredericksburg, by Major Benjamin Day,		15 00
— Cumberland ——, Lunenburg, by Mr. John Buford,		15 00
— Hamilton ——, Fauquier, by Doctor Thos. Henderson,		15 00
— Manchester ——, Chesterfield, by David Pateson,	$10 00	15 00
By Mat. Cheatham,	5 00	
— Bristol Parish, Petersburg, by the Rev. Andrew Syme,		15 00
— Bruton Parish, Williamsburgh, by Ferdinand Campbell,		15 00
— St. Andrew's Parish, Jefferson, by Benjamin Allen, jr.		15 00
— Frederick Parish. Frederick, by the Rev. Wm. Meade,		20 00
— The Vestry of the Monumental Church in the City of Richmond, by Doctor James McClurg,		15 00
— Antrim Parish, Halifax, by the Rev. Alexander Hay,		10 00
— St. Paul's Parish, King George, by Cadwalader J. Dade,		10 00
— Frederick Parish, Frederick, by the Rev: Alexander Balmain,		30 00
Total Parochial contributions,		$280 00

Received of the Rev. Wm. Meade cash paid him, by

the former Treasurer, as a Delegate to the General Convention; which he returns, in consequence of his having failed to attend that Covention,		50 00
Of the Administratrix of Samuel Greenhow, late Treasurer of the Protestant Episcopal Church,		172 93
On account of subscriptions to the publication of Bishop Moore's sermon in May 1815,		72 00
		$574 93

Cash paid by William Munford, Treasurer, since his appointment, viz.

1815—May—To the Rev. Hugh C. Boggs, his expenses as a Delegate to the General Convention last year,		70 00
June 9—To Messrs. Ritchie and Truehart, for printing Bishop Moore's sermon,		72 00
To do. for printing the Journal of the Convention,		42 40
June 28—To Bishop Moore, for expenses of Episcopal visitations,	$ 60 00	
July 27—To do. on the same account,	100 00	
Oct. 30—To do. on the same account,	170 00	
		*330 00
		514 40
Balance due May 21st, 1816,		60 53
		574 93

The said report, being read a second time, was, on the question put thereupon, approved by the Convention.

Mr. Hugh Nelson, from the Committee on the subject of the parochial reports, presented a report, which was read as follows:

The Committee on the subject of the parochial reports, beg leave to report the following condensed statement of the reports that have been submitted to them:—

The report from the Parishes of St. Andrew's and Norborne is highly favorable. A new Church has been finished at Shepherd's Town. Two others, one at Bunker's Hill, and one at Charlestown,* will, it is expected, be finished in the course of a few months. Another at Hedges Chapel is just commenced, and is expected to be under roof this fall. Well grounded hopes are etertained that another will be shortly erected on Back-Creek, in the western part of the Parish of Norborne. The Rev'd. Thomas Horrell of Maryland has been elected to the Parish of Norborne. The number of Catechumens in these Parishes is about three hundred. Baptisms eighty-five.

The report from Dettingen states, that a vestry has been organized, and that they hope to build a Church this summer.

The report from Fredericksburg is highly favourable. A large neat Church has been completed. Communicants 90. Baptisms 34. Marriages 8. Deaths 10. Catechumens 45.

The report from Hamilton Parish is highly favorable. A new Church, it is hoped, will be built this summer at Warrenton, and another covered in before next winter in the neighborhood of Oak Hill. Communicants 39. Baptisms between 20 and 30 infants, and one adult. Marrriages 8. Funerals 4.

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* *This expenditure has principally arisen from the circumstance of the Right Rev. Bishop Moore's being compelled to hire a carriage.*

* *Owing to various delays, the Church at Charlestown will not be finished before next year.* (Ed.)

The report from Manchester Parish states, that its two old Churches are now undergoing repairs.

The report from Staunton Parish states, that though it has been long in a low state, it now begins to assume a more encouraging aspect. Baptisms for the last four years, 40 Infants and 7 adults. Marriages, 1.

That in the parish of St. Mary's in Caroline County, the spirit of religion is reviving, and dispelling the gloomy spectacle of the Temples of the Most High in utter ruins. The sum of three thousand dollars has been subscribed to erect a Church in Port Royal, which building it is expected will be commenced in the approaching Summer.

That in the Monumental Church in Richmond, such has been the success, under Heaven, of the pious and venerable Bishop of this Diocese, in his holy labours, as to excite in us the most lively feeling of gratitude to the Great Author of our religion. A devout attendance on their religious duties, and a spirit of harmony, mark the conduct of the members of this Church. Communicants to the number of one hundred and twenty, surround the Altar of the Living God.

That the parish of St. Paul's exhibits no flattering prospect. The building destined for the service of the only true God is, by an Act of the Legislature, converted into a schoolhouse, which might yet be used as a place of public worship. The parishioners appear inclined to cultivate the revival of Religion.

The Church on Richmond Hill exhibits a lively contrast to the last preceeding—a spirit of religion becoming general; about thirty communicants —and six baptisms.

The Church in Shelburne parish continues in a prosperous state.—Twenty five baptisms, and communicants increasing.

The parish of Washington in Westmoreland county exhibits dilapidated churches, and an absence of all public worship after the manner of the Episcopal Church. It is expected the building may soon be repaired, when by the aid of some pious Divine the spirit of religion may be once again restored.

The report from the parish of St. Martin's, Hanover county, is favourable. In that parish the number of communicants has increased, and vital religion appears to be increasing. One marriage solemnized—fifteen baptisms—two funerals—thirty communicants.

The report from the parish of Lexington is favorable.—Forty baptisms solemnized. There are three Churches in the parish which are not in good repair; but the Vestry seem determined to have them repaired.

The report from the parish of Kingston states that there have been two Churches formerly in this parish; one of which has gone nearly to decay, and the other entirely demolished. A subscription has lately been opened to repair the Church that is in a ruinous state.

The report from the Parishes of St. Marks and St. Stephen's, in Culpepper, is favorable. There are 55 communicants. Twenty two baptisms have been solemnized in the course of eighteen months. Five marriages.

In consequence of the absence of the Rev'd. John Woodville, the number of baptisms and marriages in St. Marks, is not known.

The report from the Parishes of St. Thomas' in Orange is favorable. The number of communicants there has increased.

NOTE by the Editor.

Many of the parishes did not give in their parochial reports, so that a correct view of the state of the Church cannot be had from the above summary. As for instance, there are in Alexandria 200 communicants—in the parish of Frederick, 80 or 90—In the

On motion,

Ordered, that the said report be inserted in the Journal.

On motion of Mr. Benjamin Allen, junr.

Resolved, that "a Common Prayer Book and Tract Society, for the Diocese of Virginia," be formed, under the patronage of this Convention, according to the following plan:

Constitution of the Common Prayer Book and Tract Society of the Diocese ef Virginia.

1. Every person who pays not less than three dollars at the time of subscribing, and not less than two dollars annually, shall be a member of this society.

2. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a board of managers, consisting of the Bishop and standing Committee of the Diocese for the time being. A majority of the managers shall constitute a quorum to do business. The board of managers shall make all laws necessary for the government of the Society, and shall cause a statement of the receipts and expenditures of money, with other such matters as they may deem proper, to be laid before the Convention of this Diocese at its annual meeting.

3. At some time during the session of each annual Convention, a suitable sermon shall be preached by some person whom the Bishop shall appoint, after which a collection shall be made to be appropriated to the funds of the Society.

4. The Constitution of the Society shall be unalterable, except by a vote of the Convention.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the Hon. Bushrod Washington be added to the Delegates, heretofore elected to the approaching General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

In conformity with the 10th article of the Constitution for the Government of this Diocese, the Convention proceeded to the election of a Standing Committee, by ballot: whereupon the Rev'd. William H. Wilmer, the Rev'd. Oliver Norris, the Rev'd. John Dunn, the Hon. Bushrod Washington, the Hon. William Cranch, and Edmund J. Lee, Esq. were duly elected.

A motion was made by Mr. Alexander Keech, that the Convention agree to the following Preamble and Resolution:

Whereas the extent of this Diocese will not enable our venerable Bishop to visit as frequently the several parishes as might be desired, and preparations might be made to receive him; and as it is truly desirable, in the present state of the Church, that there should be a regular organ of communication between the several parishes of the State and their Diocese—

Therefore,

Resolved, That the Convention recommend to the members in the several parishes throughout the State, when there is no Rector or Vestry, to elect a Vestry of at least eight of the most pious members of the Church, whose duty it shall be to communicate with the Bishop from time to time, upon the prospects in their several parishes, and to endeavor, by every possible means, to obtain visits from the Ministers of the adjoining parishes, as often as the nature of their charges and other circumstances may admit.

The said Preamble and Resolution, being twice read, were, on the question put thereupon, agreed to by the Convention.

The Rev. Oliver Norris from the standing Committee of this Diocese, submitted to the consideration of the

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parishes of St. Andrews and Norborne (now) 150. In the Parish of Norborne 45 new communicants have been added to the church within the past 6 weeks.

Martinsburgh, July 29, 1816.

Convention the following Circular Letter:

Alexandria, March 1st, 1816.

We deem it our duty to submit to the friends of the Church in Virginia the following considerations:

The convention of 1813 adopted a resolution, having for its object the creation of a fund, by which the vacant parishes might occasionally enjoy benefits of public worship. But an inherent difficulty has been found to attach to the plan proposed, from the small number of clergymen in the state, and the consequent impossibility of obtaining their services as missionaries. This cause which continues to operate, must defeat the benevolent scheme of the convention: and until some remedy can be applied, the church must continue to mourn her desolations and many of her children to sigh, that the harps of Zion are unstrung, and no voice of praise is heard in her courts.

Our venerable Bishop has done all in his power to remedy the evil, and has diffused, through various and remote parts, a portion of that zeal which animates his labours. But the duties of his parochial charge necessarily limit this sphere of his usefulness. It appears to us therefore necessary, as well in order to give full effect to his Episcopal ministrations, as to derive the benefits contemplated by the convention, that some mode be devised, by which he may be rendered independent of any parochial charge. By this means every part of the church may occasionally enjoy the benefits of the public ordinances, and of the Episcopal functions; and thus, being enabled to pervade every part of the diocese, he will have it in his power to encourage the desponding, to rouse the thoughtless, to give direction to the zeal and energy of the pious, and to impress upon the whole system a salutary impulse.

It is with this view, we take the liberty of submitting the propriety of constituting *a fund for the support of the Episcopate*. Contributions may be obtained for it either by annual or life subscriptions, or by advancing an amount which would yield an interest equal to the annual subscription. Should the annual product thus raised be more than necessary for the support of the Bishop, the surplus may be invested in bank stock, and the interest and dividend thereof be reinvested, so as to form, by its accumulation, at no distant period, we trust, *a permanent fund*, when the further *annual* contributions might cease.

In aid of this fund, it does not appear to us unreasonable to calculate upon the donations and bequests of pious individuals, who, wishing to favor this particular object, will find the means of giving their bounty its proper direction, in the fund now created under a specific appellation.—As soon as a similar fund was announced in one of the Northern states, the committee of that diocese received an anonymous letter, covering three thousand dollars for their disposal.

We have thought it not improper to sketch these general outlines of a plan, that they may be considered, and the members of the next convention be prepared to make such improvements as their better judgments may suggest. In the mean time, we beg leave to recommend, that measures be taken in each parish towards obtaining contributions, and that the sums thus raised be forwarded to the convention,* for the purpose above expressed.

The convention of 1815 received a communication from the president of William and Mary college upon the expediency of establishing a theological professorship in that institution.—

** The Convention will be holden in Fredericksburg, on the first Tuesday in May next.*

Whether this important object will ever be accomplished, will depend entirely, under the blessing of God, upon the liberality and zeal of the friends of the church, in providing for it a suitable fund. For the present, we submit the subject for consideration, and ask your aid and advice at our next convention, in organizing a plan, which may embrace a charity so extensive and useful.

When the number and wealth of Episcopalians in Virginia are considered, we cannot but believe that these several objects will be cherished, and that our church, which is behind none in the purity of her doctrines, and the excellence of her forms, will be behind none in successful efforts towards carrying into effect the several parts of her religious and literary institutions. And surely, in the long list of distinguished supporters, a peculiar honor will rest on those, who, placed in the highest rank and station, have associated their greatness, and consecrated some portion of their wealth to such objects; and who will perceive that, in rallying round the standard of religion, they are upholding that, which is not only the best security and guard of social order, but is also the promise and pledge of a felicity above the warmest conceptions of the human imagination.

To conclude in the words of the resolution before alluded to;—we beg leave "most earnestly to entreat the members of the church generally, to consider the necessity of adopting zealous measures for the restoration of religion among us: that they endeavor to manifest their gratitude to Almighty God, and their sense of the awful importance of his blessed revelation; that they consider the unspeakable rewards they will receive from that gracious master to whom they belong; whose goodness demands the warmest returns of love, duty and obedience; and that they will contribute to the utmost in their power, to render this most acceptable service to his cause."

We are, respectfully, your friends, and obedient servants,

Wm. H. Wilmer,
John Dunn,
Oliver Norris,
B. Washington,
W. Cranch,
Edm. I. Lee.
} *Standing Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia.*

The said letter being read, was, on motion, referred to the consideration of a Committee, consisting of the Rev. W. H. Wilmer, the Rev. Oliver Norris, the Rev. John Dunn, Mr. Hugh Nelson, Mr. Benjamin Watkins Leigh, and Doctor James McClurg,

On a farther motion, *Resolved*, that the said vote be reconsidered, and

On motion of Mr. Benjamin Watkins Leigh, the Convention agreed to the following Preamble and Resolution:

A Circular Letter of the standing Committee, addressed to the friends of the Church in Virginia, dated Alexandria, March 1st, 1816, recommending the constitution of a fund for the support of the Episcopate, having been laid before the Convention—

Resolved, that the said letter be re-committed to the said standing Committee; with instructions, that they prepare such detailed scheme, for effecting the object recommended in the said letter, as to them shall seem most likely to ensure the same; and to transmit the plan, as soon as may be, to the Ministers and Vestries of the several Parishes, to be by them carried into execution in such manner as they shall judge most effectual.

On motion of the Rev'd. William Hawley,

Resolved, that the next meeting of the Convention of this Diocese shall

be at Fredericksburg, on the first Tuesday in May 1817.

The Right Reverend Bishop Moore delivered to the Convention his address on the state of the Church; which being heard,

Resolved, unanimously, that the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore, D. D. for his eloquent and appropriate pastoral Address; and that he be requested to furnish a copy thereof for insertion in the Journal.

The said Address is in the following words:

Brethern,

It is with the most sincere happiness I inform you, that the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia presents to the view of her friends a prospect truly encouraging. The clouds of adversity, which for years have overspread her horizon, appear to be dispersing, and our Zion animated by the beams of the sun of righteousness, is recovering from her desolations, exhibiting the most heart cheering evidences of returning health and vigor. In her restoration, are associated the most affecting recollections. It is the Church of our fathers, the sanctuary in which they worshipped the Sovereign of Universal Nature, and in which they expressed their grateful acknowledgments to the Redeemer of the World. At her holy Altars, we were offered up in our infancy to the God of our salvation. Hallowed be the Courts which they have trodden, and blessed be the altars at which they bowed in adoration!

Her children, to their honor be it mentioned, have not deserted the Church of their fathers in her distress. Though they have noticed with streaming eyes and bleeding hearts the desolation of our Zion; though the prospect of her restoration at one period appeared almost hopeless, still, warmed by the genial influences of filial affection, they have retained their allegiance to her interests, and preserved their attachment to her cause. May the blessings, the richest blessings of Heaven be their portion; may the arms of Jehovah be their refuge, and his bosom their pillow!

Conscious, Brethren, that the concerns of the Church required the most prompt and vigorous exertion, I have endeavoured to discharge the duties, which devolve upon me, with fidelity; and have extended my labors as far as my Parochial engagements, and bodily strength would admit. My first excursion, after the rising of the last Convention, was directed towards the Eastern part of the Diocese. I visited the Church at Williamsburg, at which place I preached twice, and confirmed 18.— I visited York, and preached to an attentive auditory twice. I visited Norfolk, and preached several times in that Church to a very numerous auditory, confirmed near 200, and administered the Lord's Supper to as many. I crossed the river to Portsmouth, and officiated in the Church in that place. On my return to Richmond, I visited the county of Gloucester, preached in Abington Church in the morning, and in the evening lectured at the house of the Excellent Mrs. Page, the widow of the late Governor of this State.

My next excursion was in company with Colonel Patteson, in the county of Chesterfield, in which District I preached once at the House of Col. Branch, and once in the Church of Falling Creek. A subscription was at that period opened for the repair of the Church, and money sufficient was subscribed upon the spot to answer the laudable purpose.

In the month of August, I left Richmond in order to visit the Churches in the Northern Section of the State. I preached in the county of Culpeper in four different places to large and respectable congregations,

and confirmed, in addition to those of the last year, 18. In that place I also held an ordinaton, and admitted to the holy order of Deacon Mr. Clark Brown. In Fauquire, I also preached several times to attentive auditories and confirmed 17. I then crossed the Blue Ridge into Frederick County, and officiated in Mr. Meade's Chapel twice to a numerous and attentive congregation, and confirmed 48. I then proceeded to the county of Jefferson, and preached at Harper's ferry. The next object, which attracted my attention, was Shepherd's-town, in which place I found a very large and respectable assembly to whom I preached, and administered the rite of confirmation to upwards of fifty. From thence I proceeded to Mr. Colston's, and the next day preached to an interesting congregation at the Edge of the North Mountain. I then proceeded to Martinsburgh, where I officiated, and confirmed upwards of 50. From thence I bent my course to Winchester, where I also preached and confirmed 28 Having performed my Episcopal duties in that district, I again crossed the Blue Ridge, and went into the county of Loudoun, and at Leesburg preached to a congregation, confirmed 40, and consecrated a handsome new brick Church. May the zeal of its patrons, and the piety of its worthy Rector Mr. Dunn, meet with the blessing of Heaven! I then visited the county of Prince William, and preached to an attentive auditory in that place. I also visited and preached at Dumfries to a people with whose orderly deportment I was much gratified, confirmed 18, and administered the Lord's Supper to a goodly number. I preached also at Aquia Church in the county of Stafford, and confirmed 17. On my return home, I visited and preached at Fredericksburg to a very large congregation, confirmed upwards of 60, and consecrated a handsome brick edifice. The zeal of the members of that Church entitles them to the love and veneration of their brethern, and the pious and indefatigable exertions of their minister, Mr. McGuire merit my warmest commendation.

In addition to the duties which I have enumerated, I have preached in the county of Hanover several times, and have administered the Lord's Supper to that people. I have also visited and preached upon a funeral occasion in the county of Surry.— I have preached twice in Petersburg, twice in Lunenburg, and confirmed 17. I have also preached to a very large assembly in Powhatan. In Richmond, I have also held a confirmation, at which ceremony about 100 received that holy rite.

It is my intention, brethern, this fall to visit the Parishes North and South of James River. It is impossible for me to specify the precise time, but the congregations in that Diocese may expect me to be with them.

It gives me great pleasure to mention, that a spirit of Gospel Industry, appears to pervade the minds of all the Clergy. When each individual is doing his duty, it would be ungenerous to make the least distinction.— They possess my entire confidence, and they deserve it. May that Jesus, whose cause they venerate, and whose Empire they are endeavoring to promote, own their labours, and crown their exertions with the most abundant success!

To be continued.

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Those who have already paid their subscription, for the first year, will on doing as above, be credited fifty cents of what they have paid, on the subscription for the second year

No library reports v.1, no. 40
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